

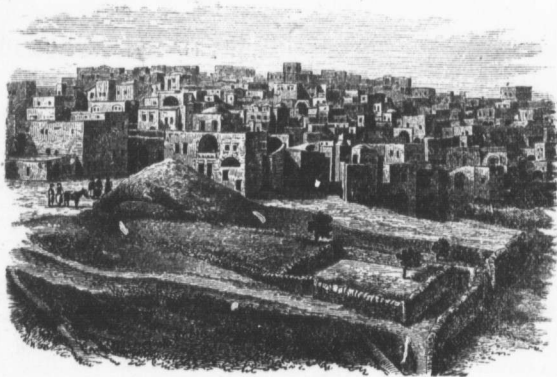
# SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER

for  
TEACHERS  
AND  
YOUNG PEOPLE.

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BETHLEHEM.

## Bethlehem.

Is one of the oldest towns in Palestine, already in existence at the time of Jacob's return to the country. Its earliest name was Ephrath or Ephratah. See Gen. 35. 16, 19; 48. 7. After the conquest Bethlehem appears under its own name, Bethlehem-Judah. Judges 17. 7; 1 Sam. 17. 12; Ruth J. 1, 2. The book of Ruth is a page from the domestic history of Bethlehem. It was the home of Ruth, Ruth 1: 19, and of David. 1 Sam. 17. 12. It was fortified by Rehoboam. 2 Chron. 11. 6. It was here that our Lord was born, Matt. 2. 1, and here that he was visited by the shepherds, Luke 2. 15-17, and the Magi. Matt. 2. The

modern town of Beit-lahm lies to the east of the main road from Jerusalem to Hebron, six miles from the former. It covers the east and north-east parts of the ridge of a long gray hill of Jura limestone, which stands nearly due east and west, and is about a mile in length. The hill has a deep valley on the north and another on the south. On the top lies the village in a kind of irregular triangle. The population is about 3,000 souls, entirely Christians. The Church of the Nativity, built by the empress Helena A.D. 330, is the oldest Christian church in existence. It is built over the grotto where Christ is supposed to have been born.

The above cut is an example of over 100 engravings of Bible Lands to be given in the *Methodist Magazine* for 1889.